

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

MARCH 10, 2015

Proclaim March 10, 2015 as “Susan Ahn Cuddy Day” Throughout Los Angeles County

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will proclaim March 10, 2015 as “Susan Ahn Cuddy Day” in Los Angeles County in recognition of her contributions to national security during World War II and the height of the Cold War, as well as her dedication to community welfare in Los Angeles.

The United States Navy’s Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services, (also known as WAVES) program created entry for women like Mrs. Cuddy to teach Naval pilots air combat tactics as the first ever female Gunnery Officer. Mrs. Cuddy then joined the Office of Naval Intelligence’s elite code-breaking team as a full Lieutenant. Her achievements and promotions also paved the way to break the glass ceiling in the National Security Agency, where she rose from Intelligence Analyst to Chief, supervising over 300 scholars and experts on the U.S.S.R. for over a decade. These were all firsts as an Asian American woman in a man’s world, when anti-Asian racism was brazenly prevalent.

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Female service members of the United States Navy and National Security Agency provide valuable contributions that ensure the protection and general welfare of the residents of not only the County of Los Angeles, but also the United States of America as they work for countless hours using their unique expertise.

Mrs. Cuddy recently celebrated her 100th Birthday surrounded by friends and family, and she continues to be a leader in the community and a matriarch to her family, leading by example. She exemplifies how to channel the sacrifices of immigrant parents to courageously live out the American dream.

Today also honors a special day for Mrs. Cuddy and her family, marking the 77th anniversary since her father Dosan Ahn Chang Ho's passing. He fought for democratic rule in the Korean peninsula and fostered a hub for the fledgling Korean American community in Los Angeles. She carries his spirit in continued civic involvement in the growing Korean American community from the sixties through today.

In addition, the East West Players, one of the most respected theatre companies in Los Angeles, commissioned a play about Mrs. Cuddy's life story, illustrious achievements, and impactful contributions. East West Players has taken *Born to Lead: The Susan Ahn Cuddy Story* to various schools and libraries throughout the County of Los Angeles.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim March 10, 2015 as "Susan Ahn Cuddy Day" throughout the County of Los Angeles in honor of her patriotic contributions to our country through her service in the United States Navy and National Security Agency, and to the Los Angeles community.

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